

The Yarmouth TRAGEDY;

Shewing how by the Cruelty of their Parents, two Lovers were destroyed.

Lovers I pray you lend an ear to my story,
take an example by this constant pair,
how love a young virgin did blast in her glory
beautiful Nancy of Yarmouth we hear.

She was a merchant's only daughter,
heir unto fifteen hundred a year,
a young man he courted her to be his jewel,
the son of a gentleman who lived near.

Many long years he the maid did admire,
when they were infants in love they agreed;
and when to age this young couple arrived,
cupid an arrow between them display'd.

Their tender hearts were linked together,
but when their parents the same did hear,
they to their charming young beautiful daughter
acted the part that was base and severe.

Daughter, said they, give o'er your proceedings
if that against our consent ye do wed,
for evermore we resolve to disown you,
if you wed one that is so meanly bred;

Her mother said, you have a great fortune,
besides you are beautiful charming and young,
you are a match dear child that is fitting
for any lord that is in christendom.

Then did reply the young beautiful virgin,
riches and honour I doth do defy,
if that I am deny'd of my dearest Jemmy
then farewell world which is all vanity.

Jemmy's the man whom I do admire,
he is all the riches that I do adore,
for to be greater I never desire,
my heart is fixed never to love more,

Then said her Father its my resolution
altho' that I have no more daughters but thee,
if that with him ye resolve for to marry,
banish'd forever from me you shall be.

Well cruel Father but this I desire,
grant me that Jemmy once more I may see,
tho' you do part us I still shall be loyal,
for none in the world I admire but he.

Then for the young man he sent (in a passion),
saying, forever sir, take your leave,
I have a match more fit for my daughter,
therefore it is but a folly to grieve.

Honoured father then said the young ladie,
promised we are by the powers above,
why of all comforts will you bereave me?
my love it is fixed never to remove.

Then said the father a trip to the ocean
you first shall go in a ship of my own,
and I will consent that you have my daughter
whenever to Yarmouth again you return,

Honoured sir, then said the two lovers,
since 'tis your will we're bound to obey,
our constant hearts can never be parted
but our eager desire no longer must stay.

Then beautiful Nancy, he said, dearest Jemmy,
here take this ring, the pledge of our vows,
as from my heart, keep it safe in your bosom;
carry it with you wherever you go.

Then in his arms he did in fold her,
whilst crystal tears like a fountain did flow,
crying my heart in return I do give to thee,
and I shall be present wherever you go.

When in the ocean my dear you are sailing,
these tedious long days swift time will devour,
and my prayers they will be prevailing,
and bring me home to my dearest dear.

Therefore be constant my dearest jewel,
for by the heavens if you are untrue,
my troubled ghost shall torment you forever,
dead or alive I will have you.

Her ivory arm, round about his neck she twain'd
dear when you're on the seas,

No man alive shall ever enjoy me
soon as the tidings do reach my ear,
then like a poor unfortunate lover
down to the grave I will go to my dear.

Then with a sorrowful sigh he departed,
the wind next morning blew a pleasant gale,
all things being ready, the fam'd Mary Galley,
for the island of Barbadoes the straight way set sail.

Jemmy was floating up the wide ocean,
her cruel parents were plotting the while,
how the young heart of their beautiful daughter
with cursed gold should strive to beguile.

Many a lord of fame birth and breeding,
came to court this beautiful maid,
all their rich presents and favours she slighted,
constant I'll be to my jewel she said.

Now for a while we will leave this fair maid,
and tell how things with her lover did go,
in fair Barbadoes the ship had arrived,
but now observe the fatal overthrow.

Young Jemmy was comely in every feature,
a Barbadoes lady whose fortune was great,
first fixed her eyes when she cry'd if I have'n't
this brave English sailor I'll die for his sake.

She dress'd herself in a gallant attire,
with costly diamonds she planted her hair,
a hundred slaves she had for to attend her,
she went forth this young man to come unto her.

Come noble sailor, she said, can you fancy,
a lady whose riches is very great,
a hundred slaves you shall have to attend you,
music to charm you to your silent sleep,

In robes of gold my dear I will deck you,
pearls and rich jewels I'll lay at your feet,
in a chariot of gold you shall ride for pleasure,
if you can love me answer me straight.

Amazed with wonder, a while he stood gazing
forbear noble lady, at length he reply'd,
in England I vow'd to a fair lady,
at my return to make her my bride.

She is my charming young beautiful creature,
she has my heart I can love no more.
I bear in my eye her sweet lovely feature,
no other charms on earth I adore.

Hearing this, she rav'd in distraction,
crying unfortunate maid, thus to love
a man that does basely slight all my glory,
and of my person will not approve.

Great lords of renown I this favour slighted,
for now I must die for a sailor so bold,
I must not blame him because he is constant,
true love I find is more precious than gold.

A costly jewel she instantly give him,
then in her trembling hand took a knife,
one fatal stroke before they could save her
quickly put an end to her life.

Great lamentations was made for this lady,
Jemmy on board the vessel did steer,
and to England when he homeward was sailing,
with longing desire to meet with her dear.

But when her father found he was returning,
a letter he wrote to the boatswain his friend,
saying, a handsome reward I will give you,
if you the life of young Jemmy will end.

Void of all grace for the sake of the money,
the cruel boatswain the same did complete,
as they on the deck were carelessly walking,
he suddenly turn'd him unto the deep.

In dead of the night when all were asleep
his troubled ghost to his love did appear,
crying, arise my beautiful Nancy
perform the vows you made to your dear

You are my own, therefore tarry no longer.
seven long years for your sake I did stay,
Hymen doth watch to crown us with pleasure

She cry'd who is it under my window?
surely it is the voice of my dear.

she lifted her head from a soft downy pillow,
and straight to the casement she did repair.
By the light of the moon that was brightly shining
she espied her love who to her did say,
your parents are sleeping; before they awake,
come my dear creature you must come away.

O Jemmy said she if my father should hear thee
we should be ruined, therefore repair
to the sea side I will instantly meet you
with my two maidens I'll come to you there.

Her night gown embroider'd with silver and gold
carelessly round her body she throws,
with her two maidens away she did walk
to meet her true love she instantly goes.

Close in his arms the spirit did in fold her,
Jemmy said she you are colder than clay,
sure you can never be the man I admire,
paler then death you unto me appear.

Yes fairest creature I am your lover,
dead or alive you know you are mine,
I come for my vow, my dear you must follow
my body now to a watery tomb.

I for your sake refus'd gold and silver,
beauty and riches I for you despis'd,
a charming young lady for me did expire,
but for thinking of you I was deaf to her cries.

Your cruel parents have been my undoing,
and now I do sleep in a watery grave,
now for my promise my dear I am suing,
dead or alive my love you I must have.

The trembling lady was sore affrighted,
amazed she stood near the brink of the sea,
with her eyes lifted up, she cried cruel parents,
heaven requite you for all your cruelty.

Indeed I promis'd my dear creature,
dead or alive I should be your own,
and now to perform my vows I am ready
to follow you to the watery tomb.

The maidens they heard their sad laments,
but the apparition indeed could not see,
thinking the lady fell into distraction,
they strove to persuade her contented to be.

But still she cried my dear I am coming,
now in thy bosom I'll soon fall asleep,
when she had spoken this unfortunate lady
she suddenly plunged herself in the deep.

But when to her father this maidens had told,
he wrung his hands crying what have I done,
O dearest child saying what have I done,
that did provide thee a watery tomb.

Two or three days being then expire'd,
these two unfortunate lovers were seen
in each others arms on the waves floating
by the side of the ship on the watery main.

The cruel boatswain was struck with horror,
and straight did confess the deed he had done,
shewing the letter that came from her father,
which was the cause of these lovers doom.

On board of the ship he was tryed for murder
and at the yard arm was hang'd for the same,
her father then broke his heart for his daughter,
before the ship to the harbour came.

This cursed gold has cursed distraction,
why should the rich covet after gain?
I hope this story will be a warning,
that cruel parents may ne'er do the same.

True love is better than jewels or treasure,
riches can never buy true love I know.
but this young couple lov'd out of measure,
love was the cause of their overthrow.